

Delaware's government workers extend charity toward all

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Dover, Del. —

For the past several years, the story of Delaware state government has been all about funding shortages, budget gaps and spending cuts.

State agencies have made “Doing more with less” their mantra, but that hasn’t deterred the state’s legion of government employees from doing their part to give back to the community.

Officials announced March 9 that this year’s State Employee Charitable Campaign raised more than \$580,000 for the United Way and dozens of other organizations serving Delaware.

At a recognition ceremony at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover, Office of Management and Budget Director Ann Visalli congratulated agency organizers who encouraged their colleagues to give generously.

“This is what the charitable campaign makes happen,” she said. “We celebrate your compassion, your caring; we celebrate all your hard work.”

To contribute, state workers can elect to have a portion of their paychecks diverted to the charity of their choice. State agencies also host various fundraising events throughout the campaign’s September through February timeframe.

Lt. Gov. Matt Denn, who served as co-chair of the campaign, said the contributions are even vital in these economic times.

“We’re going through a time in this state where’s there’s more people in need, a lot of people are hurting in a lot of ways,” he said. “The state is also less able to do the things it used to do.”

Gov. Jack Markell said more people rely on state services when economic times are tough and the government is most challenged to keep pace with need, which means it’s vital to support charitable agencies with a hand in helping the community.

“There are such incredibly challenging times for state employees and hundreds of thousands of people around the state,” he said. “It’s at times like these where we say Delaware is a state of neighbors.”